31. Indian companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).

32. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purpose of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.

34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.

35. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing, with cyber security, cyber crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Impact of Iraqi war on software companies

†2969. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the impact of Iraqi war on Indian software companies;

(b) whether Government have constituted any team to conduct a study in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, whether there is any such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) It is early to predict. However, a prolonged war may lead to deferral of capital spending in US and some other

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

advanced countries, and a weakening of consumer confidence. It may also have impact on international travel. These factors in turn may affect orders for software development and exports of Indian software companies.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the Government is seized of the situation. Government is also in constant touch with National Association of Software Services and Companies (NASSCOM) and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), and shall extend all the help they require.

Mobile telephone services in NER

2970. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for inordinate delay in installation of Mobile telephone services including cellular and WLL in the NER except Guwahati and Shillong;

(b) the places for which survey work has been completed and the mobile exchange equipments have been purchased;

(c) whether Government propose to make Assam Telecom Circle to be the nodal agency for the same;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the target set for completion thereof; and

(f) implementation status of the proposal for making Guwahati an internet gateway and target fixed for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, fresh start or expansion of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and WLL Phones with limited mobility was not permitted earlier in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East Region on security considerations. The same has now been permitted and Operators have accordingly been informed by the Government on 21.08.2002.